(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to deal with such a situation ;

(e) whether Government are also considering to reduce the time limit for levy of :>nti-dumping duty, from one year to six months; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is reviewing the provisions in the Indian Customs Tariff Act relating to anti-dumping duties to bring Indian law in conformity with the agreement reached in the Uruguay Round Final Act.

(c) and (d) Anti-dumping actions are initiated on the complaint te affected industry. After scrutiny of the allegations of dumping and injury, Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on import of PVC resin from Brazil, Republic of Korea, Mexico and USA and on import of Biophenol-A from Japan. Anti-dumping duty on import of Isobutyl Benzene from People's Republic of China has been imposed provisionally. Anti-dumping investigations concerning import of Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde (TMBA); Theophylline and Caffeine have been initiated.

(e) and (f) The agreement on anti-dumping in the Uruguay Round Final Act stipulate that aniti-dump-ing investigations shall, except in special circumstances, be concluded within one year, and in no case more than 18 months, after their initiation.

Removal of restrictions on export of agricultural commodities

738. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the restrictions on export of agricultural commodities will be removed completely in the liberalised economy when the agricultural import is allowed freely and frequently; and

(b) what are the names of agricultural items which can be exported freely at present ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) AU agricultural commodities are freely permitted for export except those included in the Negative List of Exports as given in Chapter XVI of the Exim Policy (RE March, 1994). Besides, certain other agricultural commodities are allowed for export without a licence but subject to specified conditions as listed jn Public Notice No. 15 dated 31-3-93 appearing at Appendix XL III (i) of Handbook on Procedure (RE March 1994).

While maximising foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector to the benefit of the farmers, the policy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security. It is with this objective in mind that Government have placed restrictions like licensing, quantitative ceilings and Minimum Export Price, on items such as pulses, cereals, oilseeds, milk, milk products and sugar.

Indian private investment in China

739. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) v/hether it is a fact that China has invited Indian private investment in that country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and how many businessmen are expected to come forward for the private investment over there and ' the' areas .where. such privaVe investment is likely to come from ?

THE MIN STER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Both China and India have agreed to make continued efforts to foster and expand their growing economic cooperation, especially for setting up joint ventures, in either country. Three Indian joint ventures are already being set up in China, in ihe fields of pharmaceuticals, refractories, and automotive two-wheelers. Other likely areas for Indian investment in China are,inteer-alia, chemiealsa, auto components textiles, and dairy developments.

चाय का उत्पादन

740. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान चाय का कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ ;

(ख) इस समय चाय बागानों में कुल कितने श्रमिक कार्यरत हैं ;

(ग) क्या 1969–70 की तुलना में 1993-94 के दौरान चाय के उत्पादन में तीन गुना वृद्धि हुई है ; और इसके अनुपात में श्रमिकों की संख्या मे कमी आयी है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और श्रमिकों की संख्या में कमी आने के क्या कारण हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) (क) वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान चाय का कुल जत्पादन (अनुमानित 753.54 मिलियन किग्राम था ।

(ख) अद्यतन उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार 1992 के दौरान भारत में चाय पौध रोपड़ में अनुमानित नियुक्त श्रमिकों की औसत दैनिक संख्या 9,75,420 थी ।

(ग) जो, नहीं । चाय का जत्पादन वर्ष 1969–70 के दौरान 401.18 मिलियन क्रिग्रा० के स्तर से बढ़कर वर्ष 1993–94 में 753.54 मिलियन क्रिग्राम (अनुमानित) हो गया है । चाय बागानों में नियुक्त दैनिक श्रमिकों की संख्या भी बढ़ गई हैं । 1969 में यह संख्या 7,47,835 थी जो बढ़कर वर्ष 1992 के दौरान 9,75,420 हो जाने का अनुमान है । तथापि जत्पादन में यह बढ़ोत री उच्च उत्पादकता के जरिए संभव हुई है ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Newsitem regarding dubious exporters

741. PROF. O. P. KOHLI : V* ill the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Dubious exporters rob Government of over Rs. 1800 crores' which apeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 19th January 1994.

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by fhe Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Investigation by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade have not revealed large scale misuse of the value Based Advance Licensing Scheme. As regards the specific case cited in the news item, the matter is under consideration of the Central Excise Gold Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

Countries with Positive and Negative Subsidies on Agriculture

742. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) which countries of the World have got positive subsidy an agriculture ;

(b) which countries have got negative subsidies on agriculture;